

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the above-referenced application, presented herein, be entered prior to examination.

The specification has been amended herein to correct the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section to include the entire lineage from which the present application claims benefit of and priority to.

Claims 3, 5, 7-12 have been amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application, namely claims 1-20, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner desire a telephonic interview to resolve any outstanding matters, he is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned at (203) 845-1941.

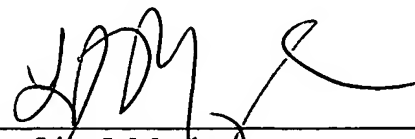
It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

It is believed that no fee is due for entry of the present amendment, however, if it is determined that a fee is required for entry of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the name of United States Surgical Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

U.S. Surgical, a division of
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By: 

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